Filter Strip

Illinois Job Sheet - 393 *April 2003*

Photo Courtesy of Bob Nichols-USDA, NRCS

Definition
A filter strip or area of herbaceous vegetation situated between cropland, grazing land, or other disturbed land and environmentally sensitive areas.

Purpose
Filter border strips are established to filter pollutants in runoff, create or restore sheet flow as part of a multi-zone riparian forest buffer, and provide wildlife habitat.

Conditions where practice applies
This practice applies (1) in areas situated between cropland, grazing land, or disturbed land; and environmentally sensitive areas: (2) where sediment, particulate organic matter and/or dissolved contaminants may leave these areas and are entering environmentally sensitive area; (3) in areas where permanent vegetation is needed to enhance wildlife and beneficial insects, along with conditions 1 and 2 above. This practice applies only when used in conjunction with other conservation practices as part of a conservation management system. This practice does not apply where runoff or subsurface water does not interact with planned vegetation..

Filter Strips - Specification Sheet

Landowner _____ **Tract** _____ **Field Number(s)** _____

Purpose (check all that apply)	
☐ **Collect sediment**	☐ **Pollution filtration**
☐ **Increase infiltration**	☐ **Other (specify)**

Filter strip design and layout	**Filter Strip 1**	**Filter strip 2**	**Filter strip 3**	**Total**
Field number(s)				
Slope (%)				
Strip width (ft)				
Includes stiff grass hedge strips? (Y/N)				
Reason for wider than minimum width (enter number of each that applies) **1. USLE RKLS > 50 2. Ratio of ADA > 10:1** **3. Concentrated flow 4. Poor soil/site conditions** **5. Manure/Hi P test 6. Pollutants in solution** **7. Other (specify)**				
Strip length (ft)				
Area of filter strip (ac)				

Filter strip seeding mixtures and rates	Filter strip 1	Filter strip 2	Filter strip 3	Total
Mix 1.				
Mix 2.				
Stiff grass hedge seeding:				
Companion crop				
Lime (tons/ac)				
N (lb/acre)				
P_2O_5 (lb/acre)				
K_2O (lb/acre)				

Minimum soil pH is 5.5 or higher. Where soil pH levels are below 5.5, apply limestone to raise pH to 6.2. Minimum soil test for Phosphorous is 15 pounds per acres. Where the P1 test is below 15, apply 60 pounds of P_2O_5 per acre. Minimum soil test for Potassium is 150 pounds per acre. Where K test is below 150, apply 200 pounds of K_2O per acre. For introduced grass/legume mixes, apply 30 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre if needed. For native grasses, nitrogen application is not recommended in the seeding year. Nitrogen may be needed after the establishment year if the plants exhibit nitrogen deficiency symptoms. Otherwise, the application of nitrogen fertilizers to establish native grasses can enhance weed competition. Apply all soil amendments prior to seedbed preparation. Inoculate legume seed before seeding with inoculant specific for the species. If the seed was preinoculated more than 60 days prior to seeding, reinoculate it.

*** Seeding rates are in pounds of pure live seed (PLS) per acre and are indicated by PLS after the seeding rate.**

Seeding Periods:	
Spring: From	**Through**
Summer: From	**Through**
Dormant: From	**Through**

Site Preparation
1. Tilled seedbed - Apply lime and fertilizer according to recommendations above. Till seedbed to 3" depth leaving a reasonably smooth, firm surface.
2. No-till seeding – Apply approved chemicals to kill or suppress existing vegetation as necessary. Always follow label directions.

Planting Method(s)
Drill grass and legume seed _____ inches deep uniformly over area. Use a drill designed for no-till seeding if needed. If not using drill, broadcast seed uniformly and roll with corrugated roller or cultimulcher with tines up.
Seed companion crop with cool-season introduced mixes. Clip companion crop before heading out to allow seeding to establish. Do not use companion crop with native seedings or if no-tilling into crop residue or existing vegetation.
Areas or spots that fail to become established should be fertilized and seeded during the next seeding period.

Maintenance
Maintain original width of grass area. Regularly remove debris and sediment from filter area. Harvest (if allowed), mow, reseed, and fertilize to maintain dense vegetation. Inspect periodically and after each major storm. Repair any eroding areas when noticed. Native grass plantings will need to be burned periodically to establish and maintain vigor. Develop prescribed burn plan when burning these sites.